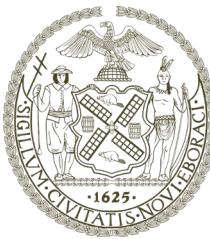


Valerie S. Mason
Chair

Ian McKnight
District Manager



505 Park Avenue, Suite 620
New York, N.Y. 10022-1106
(212) 758-4340
(212) 758-4616 (Fax)
www.cb8m.com – Website
info@cb8m.com – E-Mail

**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Parks and Waterfront Committee
Thursday, January 8, 2026 - 6:30PM
Conducted remotely on Zoom.**

Please note: The resolution contained in the committee minutes is a recommendation submitted by the committee co-chairs to the Community Board. At the monthly full board meeting, the resolution is discussed and voted upon by all members of Community Board 8 Manhattan.

Resolution for Approval:

Item 1: Resolution recommending that the Parks Department maintain the existing fence height of Ruppert Park

MINUTES

Present: Felice Farber, Miles Fink, Bradley Hershenson, Sahar Husain, Valerie Mason, Barbara Rudder, Barry Schneider*, Judy Schneider, and Irma Torres*.

*Public Member

Approximate Number of Public Attendees: 86

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Item 1: Presentation on the progress towards the reconstruction of Ruppert Park – NYC Parks Deputy Commissioner for Capital Projects Eric Boorstyn, Project Director Alex Zervos, and Manhattan Borough Parks Commissioner Tricia Shimamura.

Commissioner Shimamura welcomed the group, expressed her enthusiasm and excitement for the reconstruction of Ruppert Park. She then introduced Eric Boorstyn, Deputy Commissioner for Capital Projects, to provide an update on the project.

Deputy Commissioner Boorstyn explained that the reconstruction of Ruppert Park involves two separate projects. The reconstruction of the park (\$8.894 Million) and the construction of a public restroom building (“PRB”) (\$4.5 Million).

He reviewed the construction timeline, explaining that the project delay was caused by the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) approval process and that corrective steps were taken to improve the process and coordination with other agencies. Deputy Commissioner Boorstyn provided the bid and construction timeline for both projects.

Park Reconstruction:

Procurement Initiation: January 2026, Tentative Bid Release & Opening: Spring 2026, with contract registration in the summer of 2026.

Construction is anticipated to start in the Summer of 2026 and be completed the following summer, 2027.

Public Restroom Building (PRB):

Design of the PRB started in December 2025 and is anticipated to be completed by the Fall of 2026.

Procurement for the construction of the PRB will start in the Fall of 2026 and be completed by the Fall of 2027. Construction of the PRB is anticipated to start in the fall of 2027 and be completed by the Spring of 2029.

The park will be closed to the public during the reconstruction of the park. The park will be open to the public during construction of the PRB, except for the defined area of the PRB.

Deputy Commissioner Boorstyn emphasized that the park design is complete and has been approved by the Community Board. Deputy Commissioner Boorstyn then turned it over to Project Director Alex Zervos to explain the park design. Alex explained that the goals of the design were to make the park accessible, enhance the playground, improve seating and gathering areas, and add a dog run. The park design will improve site permeability, include robust and rat deterrent planting such as catmint. There will be synthetic turf in the dog run and in the passive lawn area. The exterior perimeter of the park will have a 4-foot-high fence, except for the back fence, which will remain 7 feet. The park will have 4 entrances. There will be a dedicated gate into the playground and Swing areas. The sidewalk and tree pits along East 90th Street will be reconstructed.

The PRB will be managed as a separate project with its own timeline and will follow the Parks Department's standard design. The building will have a green roof.

Public Comments

- Likes the accessibility and new playground equipment but is opposed to the dog run and is concerned about the lack of a recreation area for older adults and seniors.
- Concerned about the location of the PRB. (The Parks Department noted the significant investigation went into determining the placement of the PRB, and for a multitude of reasons, this was the only location for the PRB)
- Thrilled by the inclusion of a dog run and would be interested in more information about the design of the dog park. (Response: synthetic turf, undulating mounds for the dogs to go up and down, a bottle filler, and dog drinking)
- Suggests railings along the paths for those with mobility issues.
- Many people spoke in support of the dog run. It creates a sense of community.
- Concerned about the cleanliness of the bathrooms and the hours, and favors a higher fence around the park. (The Parks Department noted that a PRB actually improves the cleanliness of the park, because it allows parks maintenance personnel to be stationed in the park)
- Not enough consideration for senior citizens.
- Many voiced concerns about lowering the height of the exterior fence around the park to 4 feet.
- Supportive of the dog run and use of turf in the dog run. Suggests signage for places for dogs to go during construction. (The Parks Department will add signage)
- Requested general neutral toilet rooms. (Makes it easier for mothers with sons or fathers with daughters)
- Wants improved lighting near Ruppert Park on Second Avenue. (The Parks Department is working with the New York City Department of Transportation on this)

The following resolution was then put forward by the Committee:

WHEREAS the existing fence on the back side of the park to the west is seven (7) feet, and the rest of the surrounding fence is 6 feet at Ruppert Park; and

WHEREAS members of the public and Community Board 8 Manhattan have expressed significant concerns regarding a proposal to reduce the fence height to four (4) feet, including concerns related to park safety, security, and usability; and

WHEREAS in February 2022, Community Board 8 Manhattan adopted a resolution calling for a fence height greater than four (4) feet at Ruppert Park;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Community Board 8 Manhattan strongly recommends that the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation maintain the existing exterior fence heights of seven (7) feet on the western wall and six (6) feet along the remainder of the park perimeter;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that maintaining the existing fencing should not be an additional expense and should not delay the completion of the project.

Board Member Vote: 8-0-0 Farber, Fink, Hershenson, Husain, Mason, Rudder, B. Schneider*, J. Schneider

Item 2: Report by Shena Kaufman, NYC Parks, District Manager 8 & 15.

Shena noted that Mulch Fest is this Saturday and Sunday at Carl Schurz Park. She also noted that the Parks Department is hiring Parks Enforcement Patrol Officers (PEP) and Lifeguards.

Item 3: Old Business

Judy Schneider asked Commissioner Shimamura at the start of the meeting about Tramway Park, explaining that the installation of the water feature in the park was part of the 197-A process approved by the City Council in 2006. Commissioner Shimamura said that she would explore the extent to which this was a fully funded project and report back to the community board with a status update next month.

Item 4: New Business

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

*By Felice Farber and Judy Schneider,
Co-Chairs, Parks and Waterfront Committee*